

MARYLAND

2005

Strategic Plan *for* Conserving Our Forests

Conserving Our Forests
to
Promote Our Future



DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
MARYLAND FOREST SERVICE

Background, Purpose, and Overview of the Plan

In 2006, the Maryland Forest Service will commemorate its 100th anniversary. In 1906, Maryland passed its first forestry law, which established the State Board of Forestry. The law provided for appointing our first state forester, forming a corps of local forest-fire wardens, and educating woodlot owners about better management and harvesting methods. We have come a long way since this groundbreaking recognition that the welfare of Marylanders depends on the protection and management of our forests.

Forest Service Evolves

Wildfires still threaten life and property each year, but our advanced fire-fighting capability and changes in forest management has reduced the damage they cause to a fraction of what it was a century ago. The Forest Service continues to promote and implement management methods that improve and sustain forest resources, including timber yields, and today the scope of our influence on both public and private lands has grown exponentially since Maryland forestry was in its infancy.

The greatest change of all has been the broadening of our mission. We now routinely manage forests to stem soil erosion, mitigate fluctuations in water supply, secure

optimal water quality, offset air pollution, sequester carbon, and provide fertile habitats for fish and wildlife. We also manage our forests with an eye to outdoor recreation and even aesthetics.

Healthy forests are vital assets for which there are no substitutes. Consider that when colonists arrived in the early 1600s, 95 percent of Maryland was forested, and the rest of the Chesapeake watershed was likewise a sea of trees. The Chesapeake Bay was incredibly clear and phenomenally alive with marine life. By 1950, Maryland's forest cover had fallen to 46 percent, and it now stands at 41 percent. The decline of the Chesapeake is directly related to the loss of forestland.

Plan for Our Future

Indisputably, forestland conservation is of paramount importance, and this core idea underlies the strategic plan adopted by the Maryland Forest Service in 2004 to guide its actions in the years ahead. Besides striving to retain and improve the existing forest cover the Forest Service will continue to restore deforested land, especially in critical areas, such as those bordering waterways. The plan reiterates the need to protect trees and forests not only from wildfire but from development, fragmentation and from a variety of other threats, such as invasive and exotic diseases and destructive insects.

The Forest Service will implement the plan on state-owned lands. For

other public lands, the plan calls for forming and maintaining effective partnerships with federal authorities and local governments. Because 76 percent of our forestland is owned by approximately 130,600 individuals and private enterprises, the plan renews the commitment of the Forest Service to work cooperatively with landowners and local government decision makers to educate them about conservation and forest sustainability. Given that public support for forestry depends on people seeing that their welfare is connected to the land, this educational component will also be directed towards teachers, students, organizations, and communities.

Lastly, the plan recognizes that the Forest Service must continue to operate effectively and efficiently if its goals and objectives are to be fulfilled. Designed in accord with the principles of conservation and the provisions of Maryland law, the 2004 strategic plan will help us reap the benefits to our economy, ecosystems, health, and quality of life that only thriving forests can provide.

Goals and Objectives of the Plan

Goal 1

Protect, restore, and manage Maryland's trees, forests, and forested ecosystems to sustain our natural resources

- Retain our existing forestland

and establish new forests in priority areas to support thriving populations of native plants and animals in diverse habitats.

- Promote managing forests for sustainability on private and public lands to foster a variety of uses, including economic ones.
- Minimize the damage to trees and forests caused by wildfires, insects and diseases, various natural disturbances, and development.
- Support the restoration goals of Maryland's Chesapeake Bay strategy.
- Promote forest management that results in cleaner water, reduced soil and nutrient pollution, high quality forest products and a larger forest biomass to sequester more carbon.

Goal 2: Connect people to the land

- Support forest-related economic activities and the forest products industry to obtain both ecological and economic benefits from our forests.
- Provide comprehensive and balanced conservation education on forest sustainability to landowners, teachers, students, communities, organizations, and governments.
- Use working partnerships to protect and increase urban canopy cover and to improve the protection of communities

and natural resources from wildfires.

Goal 3 Maintain efficient and effective operations

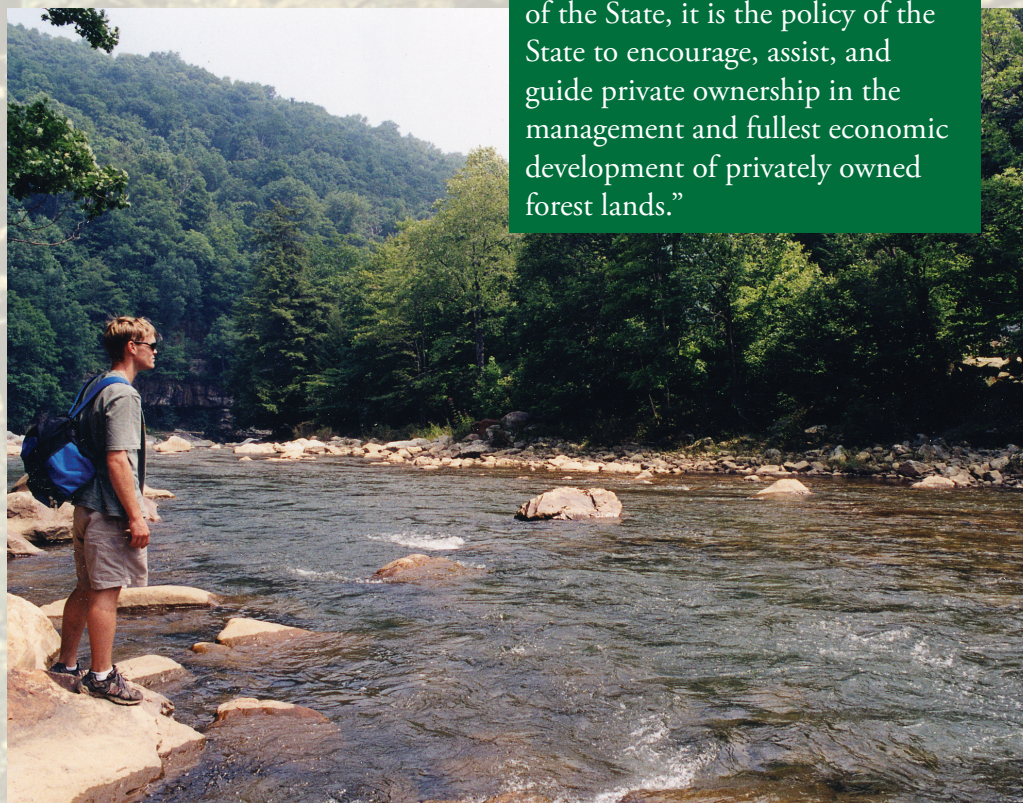
- Maintain a well-supported workforce and encourage professional development of personnel.
- Enhance the delivery of forestry services to stakeholder groups through innovative technology, expeditious policy communication and implementation, efficient use of resources, and professional development of personnel.
- Maintain the Forestry Service's sound fiscal position through managerial responsibility and accountability.

Annotated Code of Maryland, Section 5-102

"The proper use, development, and preservation of Maryland's forests are necessary to protect and promote the health, safety, economy, and general welfare of the people of the State."

Conservation Policy of the State

"Forest, timberlands, woodlands and soil resources of the State are basic assets, and the proper use, development, and preservation of these resources are necessary to protect and promote the health, safety and general welfare of the people of the State. Where these interests can be served through cooperative efforts of private forest landowners, with the assistance of the State, it is the policy of the State to encourage, assist, and guide private ownership in the management and fullest economic development of privately owned forest lands."



THE MISSION OF THE FOREST SERVICE

is to restore, manage, and protect Maryland's trees, forests, and forested ecosystems to sustain our natural resources and connect people to the land.



MD DNR FOREST SERVICE

REGIONAL OFFICES

WESTERN REGION
3 Pershing Street
Cumberland, MD 21502
(301) 777-2137
(301) 777-2197 (Fax)

CENTRAL REGION
2 S Bond Street
Bel Air, MD 21014
(410) 836-4551
(410) 836-4552 (Fax)

SOUTHERN REGION
Carter Building, Box 653
Leonardtown, MD 20650
(301) 475-4755
(310) 475-8527 (Fax)

EASTERN REGION
201 Baptist Street Ste 22
Salisbury, MD 21801
(410) 713-3860
(410) 713-3869 (Fax)

COUNTY OFFICES

ALLEGANY COUNTY
3 Pershing Street
Room # 101
Cumberland MD 21502
(301) 777-2027
(301) 777-2197 Fax

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY
Forestry Education Center
8023 Long Hill Road
Pasadena MD 21122
(410) 360-8421
(410) 360-9875 Fax

BALTIMORE COUNTY
Cub Hill Ranger Station
9405 Old Harford Road
Baltimore MD 21234
(410) 665-5820
(410) 882-9961 Fax

CALVERT COUNTY
Post Office Box 1136
Prince Frederick MD 20678
(410) 535-1303
(410) 535-4737 Fax

CAROLINE/TALBOT COUNTIES
Martinak State Park
105 Deep Shore Road
Denton MD 21629
(410) 479-1623
(410) 822-1800
(410) 479-1814 Fax

CARROLL COUNTY
328A E Nicodemus Road
Westminster MD 21157
(410) 848-9290
(410) 848-9450
(410) 848-3291 Fax

CECIL COUNTY
Black Hill Ranger Station
130 McKinneytown Road
North East MD 21901
(410) 287-5777
(410) 287-0010 Fax

CHARLES COUNTY
Po Box 2746
La Plata MD 20646
(301) 934-2543
(301) 934-8685 Fax

DORCHESTER COUNTY
4329 Golden Hill Road
Church Creek MD 21622
(410) 228-1861
(410) 228-6071 Fax

FREDERICK COUNTY
8602 Gambrill Road
Frederick MD 21701
(301) 473-8417
(301) 473-4570
(301) 473-8577 Fax

GARRET COUNTY
1728 Kings Run Road
Oakland MD 21550
(301) 334-3296
(301) 334-6541 Fax

HARFORD COUNTY
2 S Bond Street
Bel Air MD 21014
(410) 836-4551
(410) 836-4552 Fax

HOWARD\MONTGOMERY COUNTIES
17400 Annapolis Rock Rd
Woodbine MD 21797
(301) 854-6060
(410) 442-2080
(410) 442-2126 Fax

KENT/QUEEN ANNE' COUNTIES
120 Broadway Avenue
Centreville MD 21617
(410) 819-4020
(410) 778-4439
(410) 819-4110 Fax

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
11716 Fenno Road
Upper Marlboro, MD 20772
(301) 888-9214
(301) 579-6805 Fax

ST. MARY' COUNTY
Carter Building
Leonardtown MD 20650
(301) 475-8551
(301) 475-8527 Fax

SOMERSET COUNTY
10990 Market Lane
Princess Anne MD 21853
(410) 651-2004
(410) 651-0397 Fax

WASHINGTON COUNTY
14038 Blairs Valley Rd
Clear Spring MD 21722
(301) 791-4733
(301) 842-0072 Fax

WICOMICO COUNTY
Powellville Work Center
6095 Sixty Foot Road
Parsonsburg MD 21849
(410) 543-1950
(410) 543-2888 Fax

WORCESTER COUNTY
Nassawango Work Center
6572 Snow Hill Road
Snow Hill MD 21863
(410) 749-2206
(410) 749-0628 Fax